

MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 28, 2013 Agenda Item: OHV Grants Update

Division: Parks

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 7 min.

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Background (Brief description of the issue, decision to be made, history, etc.):

Annually, the division grants monies for OHV trail maintenance and safety education statewide. For the 2013 grant cycle, a total of (18) applications were received by the August 2nd deadline. The breakdown of the applications is typical of past years concerning the mix of federal agency (13) and local OHV club (5) applications for ethics and safety education, trail maintenance, staffing. The available allocation amount is approximately \$180,000.

This grant application cycle was the first one conducted utilizing the on-line, web-based application process. No significant problems were encountered for applicants using the system for the first time.

Procedurally the division will score the applications, and then meet with the citizens Off-Highway Advisory Committee (OHVAC) to discuss the merits and ranking of the individual projects. Following OHVAC input, more detailed recommendations and adjustments may be made to proposed projects prior to the public comment process. When the public comment process is complete, we will present the projects to the Board for concurrence with the department's recommendation.

The Off-Highway Vehicle program is administered by Montana State Parks. The funds that support the OHV program are derived from gas tax and decal fees related to OHV use and registrations in Montana, and are completely separate from all Montana State Parks revenues, camping fees and other Parks' related funding sources.

Public Involvement Process & Results (Brief description of the type of public involvement and summary of what we heard from the public): Following the upcoming citizens OHVAC meeting the list of proposed projects will be issued for public comment.

Alternatives and Analysis (Brief description of alternative solutions with analysis of the pros and cons of each): N/A

Agency Recommendation & Rationale (Brief description of our recommendation to the Board and the reasons for it): Following recommendations from the citizens OHVAC and the public comment process, the proposed projects will be presented to the Board for concurrence prior to grant awards being issued.

Proposed Motion (Draft language the Board could use to adopt the agency recommendation): Informational only; no action required.